

adults are the sole sources of income for their families. If these workers were attempting to support a family of three, they would fall \$2,682 below the Federal poverty line.

I am extremely concerned that 58 percent of those struggling with a minimum wage are women—5.2 million women, many of these single mothers, would benefit directly from this increase.

These single moms are trying. They are trying to raise two kids on a below-poverty income. And how does Congress reward a struggling parent's hard work? By attacking Medicaid that would have paid for her son's asthma medicine. By cutting the child care support that enables her to work. By taking away funding for nutrition programs that pay for her kids to eat at school or day care. By eliminating her Head Start Program that gives her kids a chance at coming to school ready and able to learn. By refusing to add 90 cents to her hourly wage—a wage that pays for heat, clothing and food.

Aren't these exactly the same individuals and families we are trying to keep employed and off of Federal support? Instead, this Congress has targeted the low-income family with cut after cut and a resistance to move them above the poverty line.

Mr. President, the Kennedy amendment would not have eliminated jobs. It would have barely kept people working—people who otherwise would be completely reliant on public support. If we had only passed this amendment a year ago, it would have meant that the single mother would have earned an additional \$2,000 today.

To low-income families, that would have meant more than 7 months of groceries, 4 months of rent, a full year of health care costs, or 9 months of utility bills.

I did not reach my decision to support the minimum wage hastily. I have listened carefully to the concerns of small business owners from across my State, who have highlighted the implications of this increase. I don't want to see prices for the American consumer rise or jobs eliminated. But I don't think an increase to the minimum wage will end employment in small business, either.

It has now been more than 5 years since the last minimum wage increase. We must remember that the value of the current minimum wage has fallen by nearly 50 cents since 1991 and is now 27 percent lower than it was in 1979. Now is the time to adjust that inequality and demonstrate a true commitment to our working families.

A slight increase in this wage provides those who work hard and play by the rules an increased opportunity and a chance to succeed. If any of my colleagues opposes the minimum wage, I urge them to live on \$8,840 this year and then reconsider their vote.

Mr. President, I want to take a minute to express my support for title

I of H.R. 3448, the small business provisions. This section incorporates a variety of tax changes, pension simplifications and S corporation reforms that expand business opportunities for America's small businesses.

We all know small business is the engine that drives the American economy. As large corporations across the country downsize and consolidate, innovative small businesses expand and add jobs to the work force. In 1995, 22,000 individuals in Washington State were employed by software-related companies—66 percent of these companies are small businesses with less than 11 employees.

This legislation will only make it easier for these and other small businesses to invest in research and development, raise capital and spur economic growth.

Most importantly, the legislation reinstates several expired tax provisions including the research and development [R&D] tax credit and employer provided educational assistance.

The R&D tax credit is vital to small, technology-based companies that need to invest in long-term endeavors in order to stay competitive in rapidly changing business climates. At the same time, the employer-provided educational assistance is essential to maintaining a highly skilled, well-educated work force.

The legislation also improves the flexibility subchapter S corporations have when they set out to raise capital. Like S. 758, a bill which I cosponsored, this legislation raises the number of shareholders who can invest in S corporations. It increases the number from 35 to 75, and in doing so, this bill greatly increase an S corporation's ability to raise capital.

Mr. President, title I of this bill also incorporates two changes to our pension laws that were introduced in S. 1756, legislation I support that was introduced by Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN. First, the Treasury Department will be required to create a clear spousal consent form so that couples can make informed decisions about annuities. Also, Treasury will need to develop a qualified domestic relations order form spelling out how, to whom and when pension plans should be paid upon divorce. These provisions are essential to protecting spousal rights.

Finally, H.R. 3448 expands tax deductible IRA contributions to home-makers. This change will make retirement savings opportunities possible for individuals who work at home rather than in the work force. It will encourage greater savings in the United States, and it will improve retirement security for our hard-working home-makers.

Mr. President, even without the KENNEDY amendment, this legislation still goes a long way to helping over 10 million hard-working Americans. This legislation ultimately raises the minimum wage 90 cents over 2 years. It rewards our working families as they

struggle to rise above the poverty line. I am proud the Senate took this important and eagerly awaited step today. ●

METRO DETROIT YOUTH DAY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to recognize today as Metro Detroit Youth Day in my home State of Michigan. I commend the many sponsors and organizers of this event, being held today at Belle Isle's athletic field in Detroit. Recognizing the importance of leisure and recreation in improving the lives of youth, the sponsors and organizers of Metro Detroit Youth Day have dedicated their time and resources to giving young people in Detroit an opportunity to participate in recreational activities in a safe, yet competitive, environment.

Metro Detroit Youth Day emphasizes the need for physical education and fitness with the need for good sportsmanship. It brings together community leaders, business leaders, service organizations, and young people. Over 14,000 youth and 700 volunteers will participate this year.

I would like to pay special tribute to the following cochair of Detroit Youth Day. In chairing this event, they have given young people examples to follow and have been role models for many others in the community—both young and old. They truly have made this day count. And so, I commend Harold Edwards of MichCon; Edward Deeb of Michigan Food and Beverage Association; Sharon Williams of Omni-Care; Tom Moss of West Side Athletics; Detroit Police Chief Isiah McKinnon; Ernest Burkeen of the Detroit Recreation Department; and Keith Bennett with Starr Commonwealth Schools.

In 1991, Metro Detroit Youth Day received the 477th Point of Light Award. In the spirit of that award, I offer congratulations and thanks to all who continue to make Metro Detroit Youth Day a success. ●

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DeWINE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

ORGAN DONATION STAMP

Mr. DeWINE. Mr. President, I rise this evening to talk about an issue that I have talked about on several occasions previously on the floor, and that has to do with a problem we have in this country, a serious problem, and that is a shortage of organ donors.

We need to raise the awareness of the American people about this very important issue. That is why today I am calling upon the Citizens Postal Advisory Committee to approve a postage stamp in honor of organ donation.

Every day in this country eight people die—eight people every single day die—who are on a waiting list, a waiting list to have an organ transplant operation. In 1994, over 3,000 Americans